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The Event 201

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The Event 201

The Event 201 was a high-level pandemic exercise performed on October 18, 2019, in New York, NY. The exercise illustrated areas where public/private partnerships will be necessary during the response to a severe pandemic in order to diminish large-scale economic and societal consequences. Event 201 simulated an outbreak of a novel zoonotic coronavirus transmitted from bats to pigs to people that eventually becomes efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in partnership with the **World Economic Forum** and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** hosted Event 201, a high-level pandemic exercise on October 18, 2019, in New York, NY.

The exercise illustrated areas where **public/private partnerships** will be necessary during the response to a severe pandemic in order to diminish large-scale economic and societal consequences.

Event 201 simulated an outbreak of a **novel zoonotic coronavirus transmitted from bats** to pigs to people that eventually becomes efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic.

The pathogen and the disease it causes were modeled largely on SARS, but it is more transmissible in the community setting by people with mild symptoms.

There is no possibility of a vaccine being available in the first year.

There is a fictional antiviral drug that can help the sick but not significantly limit spread of the disease.

Since the whole human population is susceptible, during the initial months of the pandemic, the cumulative number of cases increases exponentially, doubling every week. And as the cases and deaths accumulate, the economic and societal consequences become increasingly severe.

Recommendations are:

1. Governments, international organizations, and businesses should plan now for how essential corporate capabilities will be utilized during a large-scale pandemic.
2. Industry, national governments, and international organizations should work together to enhance internationally held stockpiles of medical countermeasures to enable rapid and equitable distribution during a severe pandemic.
3. Countries, international organizations, and global transportation companies should work together to maintain travel and trade during severe pandemics. Travel and trade are essential to the global economy as well as to national and even local economies, and they should be maintained even in the face of a pandemic.
4. Governments should provide more resources and support for the development and surge manufacturing of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics that will be needed during a severe pandemic.
5. Global business should recognize the economic burden of pandemics and fight for stronger preparedness.
6. International organizations should prioritize reducing economic impacts of epidemics and pandemics.
7. Governments and the private sector should assign a greater priority to developing methods to combat mis- and disinformation prior to the next pandemic response.

Among the selected "players" as they were called, was the **professor George Fu Gao**, who is director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention since 2017. His specialization includes research on influenza virus interspecies transmission (host jump). He is also interested in virus ecology, especially the relationship between influenza virus and migratory birds or live poultry markets and the bat-derived virus ecology and molecular biology.

Prof. Gao was joined among others at the panel by the former Deputy Director of the CIA during the Obama term, **Avril Haines.** She also served as Obama's Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy National Security Advisor.

Another of the players at the Gates event was **Rear Admiral Stephen C. Redd,** Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Rounding out the group was **Adrian Thomas,** the Vice President of Johnson & Johnson, the giant medical and pharmaceutical company. Thomas is responsible for pandemic preparedness at J&J including developing vaccines for Ebola, Dengue Fever, and HIV.

And there was **Martin Knuchel**, Head of Crisis, Emergency & Business Continuity Management, for Lufthansa Group Airlines. Lufthansa has been one of the major airlines dramatically cutting flights during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Bill Gates also made a 2019 Netflix video which made an imaginary scenario.

The video, part of the "Explained" series, imagined a wet market in China where live and dead animals are stacked and a highly deadly virus erupts that spreads globally.

VACCINES

Inovio Pharmaceuticals of Pennsylvania received $9 million from the **Gates-backed CEPI, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations,** to develop a vaccine, INO-4800, which is about to test on humans in April.

They plan on delivering one million doses by year-end 2020 with existing resources and capacity. INOVIO Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced that it has received a new $5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the testing and scale-up of CELLECTRA® 3PSP proprietary smart device for the **intradermal delivery** of INO-4800, a DNA vaccine for COVID-19 disease.

Gates Foundation monies via CEPI are financing development of a new vaccine method known as **messenger-RNA.**

They are co-funding the **Cambridge, Massachusetts biotech company, Moderna Inc.,** to develop a vaccine against the Wuhan novel coronavirus, the SARS-CoV-2.

Moderna's other partner is the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Moderna has announced the dosing of the first participant in a phase 1 study of mRNA-1273, the company's mRNA vaccine candidate against the novel coronavirus.

The phase 1 study will examine the safety and immunogenicity of three dose levels of mRNA-1273 (25, 100, 250 μg) to be given on a two-dose vaccination schedule, with a gap of 28 days.

The company intends to have 45 healthy adults in the early-stage trial, which will be followed through 12 months after the date of the second vaccination.

Another biotech company working with mRNA technology to develop a vaccine for the COVID-19 is a **German company, CureVac.** Since 2015 CureVac has received money from the Gates Foundation to develop its own mRNA technology.

The Gates Foundation and related entities such as CEPI constitute the largest funders of the WHO. Its current director, **Tedros Adhanom,** the first WHO director in history who is not a medical doctor, worked for years on HIV with the Gates Foundation**.** Tedros Adhanom is one of the leaders fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

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